FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please spare a thought for those who have genuinely suffered as a result of the recent floods. At least one Galen family has been flooded out and is facing a difficult period of recovery.

What a huge impact the recent extreme weather has had on all our lives! It comes as a firm reminder of our need to be resilient, to be adaptable and to make contingencies because often times there are things that lie outside our power to influence, the weather being one! Recent events have reminded of a great Woody Allen line: "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans."

Our plans for last Thursday are a good case in point. I was scheduled to be in Bendigo to be part of the ceremony installing our new Bishop Les Tomlinson; half of Year 9 were to be enjoying the middle day of their three-day camp; Years 7 & 10 students were scheduled to have injections; some PE classes were to be away at the pool for the swimming program and the rest of the school was to run normal classes. By 9.15 am, all this was thrown to the wind after receiving notification from the High School that they had recalled the school buses in order to evacuate their school by 9:30 for fear that if they waited until any later in the day, the buses may not be able to get students home at all.

This is an extremely rare event: in 35 years of working in Catholic schools, this is the first time I have experienced such a situation. Some long-term Galen staff recall a time in the early 1990s when something similar occurred – but that is a long time between events!

In the space of a few minutes, the whole routine of the school had to turn to addressing the logistics of evacuating 1,000 students, ensuring the safe return to school of those on excursions or off-campus for other matters, notifying around 800 parents of our intentions to send the students home, and monitoring the escalating dangers associated with the extreme weather.

Because of the short time-frame imposed upon us by circumstances, the staff was faced with a monumental task. In the end, however, all students were safely evacuated (including bus and non-bus travellers) and we had sent communications via phone, email, website and local radio. Students were safely brought back to school from Harrietville and the pool, and then evacuated. Of course, for very understandable reasons, it was impossible to make direct contact with every parent or to know that the messages we sent had been successfully received and read – eg parents out on the farm, out of phone contact, away from a computer, etc.

As with all major Galen events, we will be reviewing our procedures to identify what worked well and what could have worked better. As part of this process, we will also be meeting with representatives from the High School and other schools to see how the whole process can be made as effective as possible for future reference.

As it happened, the situation eased sufficiently for school to go ahead as normal the next day with only the Yarrawonga bus not running. I congratulate those who had to go to some additional effort to get their children to school on Friday. It was disappointing to note the number of students who were absent on Friday, especially in light of the widespread radio, phone messaging, email and website information indicating that school was open as usual for Friday.

Opening Mass

Our Opening Mass for 2012 will be held in the Galen stadium on Tuesday 13 March starting at 10:00am. The Mass will be celebrated by Monsignor John White, Parish Priest of Wangaratta and the Canonical Administrator of Galen Catholic College. Parents are warmly invited to attend the Mass which has the theme “To be seen, to be blessed”.

Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Swimming Sports and to those parents who supported the event by being there. Special thanks go the Parents Association executive for providing the BBQ on the night.

We will be reviewing the Swimming Sports as part of our regular review processes. This will include a review of the twilight format and of the optional nature of the sports. We will keep you informed of the outcome of this review.

From the Board

The Galen Catholic College Board held our first meeting last week. The major points of focus were around keeping the Board members informed of major educational topics – eg the Gonski Review – and formulating the next Strategic Plan. We also examined enrolment trends over the past 25 years at Galen and continued our work in exploring a range of demographic data available to us.

Staffing news

Please note that we have a number of staff movements in the coming weeks due to a combination of long service leave and maternity leave. Of particular note are the following:

- Gretta Norden and Kylie Girolami have commenced maternity leave already; Kylie Fulford will commence maternity leave from 15/3; Mieka Staley will commence maternity leave from 28/4.
- Keith Willett will take long service leave for all of second term. His role as Director of Middle School will be jointly covered by the two Middle School Year Level Co-ordinators, Liz Morrow and James Bourke. Liz and James will also continue in their existing co-ordination roles but with additional time to carry out the extra duties of Director.
- Jess Laslett, our Publications & Promotions Officer, will be leaving Galen at the end of first term to travel the world. She will be replaced in this role by existing staff member, Mal Webster.

Bernard Neal
Principal
Junior School News

Lauren Lee, Junior School Director

The first of the Year 8 Camps left Galen on Wednesday morning headed for Harrietville. With the weather that we had experienced in the lead up to the camp, it was feared that we would have to cancel the group walk. Fortunately, we were lucky enough to get through this activity, enjoyed a talk from the ladies at the Alpine Visitors Centre and a visit to Nightingales Apple Orchards.

Once we arrived at the Feathertop Chalet the heavens opened and the rain fell continuously. We managed to get through the activities that were planned and to have a reasonably good night sleep. In the morning it was clear that our outdoor activities would not be possible and the staff quickly scrambled to come up with some alternatives. By mid-morning we received news that the schools in Wangaratta were closing down and that we should start to pack up and get ready to leave. The students were amazed at the amount of water and the change in scenery over night and were very happy to get home safely.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students and parents for their understanding and co-operation on Thursday. It was a highly unusual situation but was managed as well as possible. I know that the students were disappointed but they also seemed to understand that the conditions would not allow us to enjoy the experience and it was best to come home.

I would also like to thank the staff who were on the camp for the way they all worked together to make sure that the students, parents and school knew what was going on at all times.

Senior School News

Mick Grogan, Senior School Director

Year 11 students will be completing a two-day Student Driver Program conducted by DECA in Shepparton. This is a terrific opportunity to gain valuable experience in learning to drive. The students will be accommodated overnight at Dookie College.

Students will need to be at Galen College by 6.50 am on the date of departure so that they can be organised to leave by 7.00 am. The Student Driver Program runs from 8.30 am until 5.00 pm each day. After completing the program, students will return to the College at approximately 6.20 pm on the second day. Students will be provided with dinner and breakfast at Dookie College. They should bring food they require for snacks and lunch on the first day. They will require some money to purchase lunch on the second day of the camp. Students are required to bring pens or pencils for use in the classroom. The dates for the camps are listed. Please ensure all medical and permission forms are returned promptly.

At the recent Senior School Assembly, capably lead by Mr. Ellis’ homeroom, part of the theme was: ‘to have the courage to hold onto your convictions and be not afraid’. The Year 11 SRC members were also officially announced. Congratulations to Jonathon Panazzo, Andrew Mair, Zoe Levesque, Tess Rowland, Bridie Naughtin, Jacquelyn O’Keefe and Nick DelliCastelli.

At this assembly the following information was also again advertised:

The main purpose of the Rotary Murray-Darling School of Freshwater Research (RMDSF) is to enable Year 11 students who live in and around the Murray-Darling Basin to experience activities that are inherent in the fields of freshwater research, conservation and the environment. The students work in teams for five days from Thursday 12th April - Monday 16th April. One of the aims of the School is to introduce students to the process of scientific investigation and the role that research plays in living in a sustainable environment. By combining problem solving activities with intensive support and advice from staff from the three institutions, MDFRC, La Trobe University and Charles Sturt University, the students gain a realistic and fun introduction to freshwater ecology, conservation and the environment. Please see Mr. Evans or Mr. Grogan if you are interested.
Research suggests that to reduce the high number of fatalities and serious crashes involving P-Plate drivers, a learner needs to gain at least 120 hours driving practice as a mandatory requirement.

This experience covers all types of conditions: wet, dry, day, night, country and city.

Keys Please introduces some of the skills required for driving, and reinforces the messages of gaining practice (lots of practice) in all types of weather and on all road types.

On Wednesday 7th March, trained facilitator Rob Allen, (from Vic Roads) will present an informative, interactive & educational talk to all Year 10s.

In the last newsletter we touched upon the theme of opportunity which was the focus theme for Mrs Wendy Chuck and 9.2 when they recently presented the first Middle School Prayer Assembly. This theme is one that is worth revisiting in this newsletter item with a quick examination of the raft of opportunities with which students are presented at Galen. The following list is by no means prescriptive but it certainly serves to illustrate how every student has the chance to participate and make their mark during their time at Galen College:

- Art competitions and displays, whole school and junior school productions, sports carnivals and teams (there are literally dozens of these)
- Caritas, Social Justice, Maths and Science Competitions, prayer assemblies, whole school assemblies such as the Opening School Mass and the ANZAC Day Commemoration, assisting with social service organisations, school camps and excursions, immersion experiences such as Santa Theresa are amongst those activities that students are able to be part of during their time at Galen. Make the most of what is on offer!

Rebekah and Abbey make their Stage Debut!

On Thursday March 1st two of our Year 9 students Rebekah Grincais and Abbey Waring will be making their debut on stage in Bendigo. Rebekah and Abbey have entered in the ‘Melbourne International Comedy Festival Class Clowns’ competition. This competition has been running for seventeen years. As well as making their auditions on Thursday the two ladies will also participate in a two hour work shop being conducted by a professional comedian. We wish Rebekah and Abbey every success and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

A Few Words From James Bourke (Year 9 Coordinator)

The Year 9 cohort have started the year in an excellent manner at Galen Catholic College. Hardworking and on-the-job, our Year 9 students have had a positive approach to their classes, extra-curricular activities, and school-life in Term 1; much to the delight of their teachers! All Year 9 classes are now in full swing with our students busily working on their set tasks and activities. Furthermore, our Year 9 Discovery students have been actively preparing for their Year 9 Bushwalk, eagerly awaiting their 2-day Alpine Experience, which will take place in the Bogong High Plains over the next 2 weeks. As student Interim reports are now only weeks away, I encourage all Year 9’s to approach their studies in a positive manner for the remaining weeks of the Term. Well done Year 9’s, and keep up the good work!

CARITAS in the Middle School

We have now entered that part of the year where there is a real focus on Project Compassion and CARITAS. In the Middle School we have, in the past, conducted an activity where all students are invited to make a pledge whereby they make some sort of sacrifice in recognition of Lent but also as a way to personalize their commitment to the Project Compassion Theme. Students are given the opportunity to talk about their pledge or if they feel uncomfortable with this then they make a private pledge and then inwardly reflect upon this pledge. Towards the end of term we ask each student to make a gold coin donation to the CARITAS cause and this results in some significant fundraising across Middle School.

On Feb 29th we were fortunate to be addressed by Fernando Pires. Fernando Pires was born in Dili, Timor Leste and left in August 1975 because of the conflict. He grew up in Melbourne Australia. In 1999 Fernando returned to live and work in Timor Leste. He now works with Caritas Australia as Program Coordinator for the Peace Building and Community/Family Violence Prevention Program.

During his address to the Galen Middle School Fernando was able to impress upon his audience his experiences as a refugee and the social issues that are so fundamental to the work of CARITAS. We thank Fernando for his time and his willingness to talk so openly about his life experiences and his work with CARITAS.

Pictured: Top left- Fernando Pires, Kerry Stone, Fr Rom Hayes, Kate Smith and Gabby D’Arcy. Right - Rebekah Grincais and Abbey Waring. Below left- Fr Rom Hayes and Fernando Pires sititine amongst middle school students.

www.galen.vic.edu.au
On 14 February 2012 and throughout the week, there were celebrations all around Australia to welcome the start of the National Year of Reading. Galen College celebrated with green and purple balloons in both libraries and the distinctive poster in every room.

Bookmarks were distributed to all students as well as a lucky ticket.

There were 2 winners in each year level, first prize being a $20 voucher from Edgars Newsagency and 2nd prize a lap desk to be used with the lap tops.

Staff were treated to a fantastic morning tea by the library staff and were also issued with lucky tickets.

Archie Fusillio Workshops...Year 8
All Year 8 students were treated to a presentation and workshop with Archie Fusillio

Archie was born in Melbourne to an Italian migrant family. After graduating from Melbourne University he worked as a secondary school teacher at schools around Melbourne, culminating in his being nominated for the Victorian Teacher Excellence Awards by his students.

His first novel SPARRING WITH SHADOWS was an immediate success. He has since published several novels, three texts on the craft of writing, and a number of the highly successful Aussie Bites series.

Our Libraries Celebrate!

Architect Worxhip........Year 8
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Stay tuned for more National Year of Reading Celebrations!
Careers News

Rob Walker, Work & Further Education Coordinator

FOCUS ON CAREERS IN MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Do you enjoy Math and Science subjects at school? Have you considered pursuing a career in these areas? Math, Science and Engineering shapes our day to day life.

Who produces your breakfast? Farmers, food scientists, technologists, nutritionists.

Who takes you to school? Design & development engineers, petrochemical engineers, automotive engineers, automotive electricians, environmental scientists, mechanics, materials scientists.

Who built your school? Architects, surveyors, structural engineers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters

Who assists your learning? Teachers, journalists, film producers, software designers, publishers, writers

Who helps you exercise? Exercise scientists, physiotherapists, sports psychologists

Who keeps you healthy? Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, biomedical scientists

Who contributes to your spare time? Computer game developers, music technologists, product designers, sound and lighting technicians

Math, Science & Engineering Degrees...

Mathematics: If you are a logical and analytical person who enjoys solving problems with numbers, you may like a career in Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Studies. Employment for Actuaries, Mathematicians and Statisticians to 2014 – 2015 is expected to grow very strongly. Go to the following websites to find out more-
www.maths.unimelb.edu.au/pathways/careers
www.austms.org.au/Careers

Engineering: If you are practical, like to know how things work and enjoy analyzing and solving problems, you should explore careers in Engineering.

You can blend engineering with an area you are passionate about. Types of engineering include (and are not limited to): civil, chemical, mechanical, electrical, systems, biomedical, environmental, marine, coastal, mechanical, robotics, computer, mechatronic, aeronautical, automotive, mining, sound, metallurgical, structural. The list goes on!

About 16,800 new engineering jobs will be created over the next 5 years, with about 8800 of these in Civil Engineering. Electrical and Mining Engineers will also be in demand with the creation of new jobs. Check out the following sites:
www.engineersaustralia.org.au
www.swinburne.edu.au/feis/

Science: There are several broad disciplines in Science. The following are examples:

- Physical science is for people who like to ask questions about why things are the way they are in the world around us. School subjects include Chemistry and Physics.
- Computer science is for people who like to understand how computers work and to learn how to develop new programs and systems.
- Life sciences is for people who like to ask questions and think about living things and covers areas such as medicine, biology and ecology.
- Astrophysics is for people who are fascinated with the universe, stars and space exploration.
- Earth science is for people who are interested in soil, rocks, weather and the natural environment.

About 12,800 new jobs for science professionals will be created over the next 5 years, with about 4200 of these in Environmental Science. Demand for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Chemists, Food and Wine Science professionals will also be high. For more information about science careers, browse through the following links-
www.bsc.unimelb.edu.au/pathways/careers

For an excellent website which will give you information on Math and Science careers across the globe, go to www.futuremorph.org

VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

New Deakin Learning Hub in Dandenong:
The hub provides the opportunity for students to undertake the Bachelor of Health sciences through ‘community-based learning’, which links the classroom experience with input from relevant community groups and local industry.

For more information, go to www.deakin.edu.au/bhnds/hsd/dandenong/

Have you considered Surveying? If you enjoy subjects like Math, Science, IT and VISCOM, enjoy being outdoors, would like to travel nationally and globally and earn good money, this is a great career to explore. If you would like to find out what surveyors do, where you can study, watch videos and read career profiles, go to www.allwithou limits.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Considered pursuing a career as a Veterinarian? The University of Melbourne are hosting their annual Veterinary Science Open Day on Sunday 25 March at their Faculty of Veterinary Science, Werribee Campus. The day provides prospective students and their families the opportunity to learn about pathways into the Doctor of Veterinary Science program. Location- University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princess Hwy, Werribee, Vic. Register your attendance at www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday/index.html

MARCH EVENTS

- Meet Melbourne University, Geelong and Sale (21), Warragul (22), Bendigo (28), Ballarat (29), Register at www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/mestmelbourne
- MyDay CSU Events, Teaching and Education, Wagga Wagga (6); Environmental Science, Albury-Wodonga (13); Arts, Psychology & Social Work, Wagga Wagga (13); Business, IT & Computing, Wagga Wagga (20), Judy Walsh, infoevents@csu.edu.au
- At Monash Seminar Series, 10 course areas will be showcased in March at Monash University. Go to www.monash.edu.au/study/options/schools/at-monsah.html to find out dates and locations.
- 6: Contract Law Seminar, University of Melbourne, go.unimelb.edu.au/99b
- 9: Defence Technical Scholarship Applications Close

www.galen.vic.edu.au
Congratulations to all swimmers who competed at the Upper Hume Swimming Championships in Albury on Wed 29th Feb. Galen competed against Catholic College Wodonga, Marian College Myrtleford, Wangaratta High School, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Victory College and Cathedral College. The overall results were:

1st = Catholic College Wodonga
2nd = Galen College
3rd = Wangaratta High School

Two records were broken on the day by Jacob Grogan (50m freestyle), and Paris Woods (100m freestyle). Elli Warren was the 14 year old girl age-champion on the day, which is quite an achievement.

The first two place-getters in each event have automatically qualified to compete in the Hume Swimming Championships which will be held in Albury on 14th March. Approximately twelve individual swimmers and eight relay teams will be going through to this round. It is a great effort to have such a sizeable team compete at the next level.

Thanks to Fiona Harmer, Grace Harmer and Robyn Brown for managing the Galen team so well.

Swimming Carnival

After having to cancel the first date for our swimming carnival due to predicted storms, we were blessed with lovely weather on the evening of 23rd February.

It was great to see so many students dressed up in their house colours and cheering on all competitors. Competition between houses was fierce in the inaugural novelty event, the noodle relay. Teams of 8 students had to complete 2 laps of the pool, with 2 students being in contact with the pool noodle at all times.

Congratulations to Chisholm house who took out both the female and male relays.

In the hotly contested student/staff/parent freestyle relay, the students were too good on the night, and they comprehensively beat both the parent and staff teams. The parent team of Alex Trall, Shivaun Brown, Donna Samson and Geoff Morrow were victorious over the two staff teams. I’d like to thank these parents for swimming on the night and assure them that next year’s race against the staff won’t be so easily won!

In the more serious swimming events, Kate Brown broke the record in the 50m Butterfly, coming in at 33.02 sec. Other records set on the night were by Georgie Waite, Adam Evans, Mitchell Horwood and Sean Bartlett. In the freestyle relays, the 17 year boys in Champagnat house set a new record as did the 17 year girls from Mckillop house. The final event of the night was the female and male superswim. This event included the fastest freestyle swimmers of the night competing against each other. Chris Trall (year 12) and Elli Warren (year 9) took out the male and female superswims for 2012. Congratulations to all these swimmers.

Congratulations are also in order for our age group champions. These are the best performers from each age group, males and females, on the night. Each age group champion will be presented with a medallion at an upcoming assembly.

13 year olds
Jordan Storer
Shanuel Dyer

14 year olds
Harrison Clarebrough
Elli Warren

15 Year olds
Murray Waite
Paris Woods

16 Year olds
Jackson Clarke
Kate Brown

17 Year olds
Sean Bartlett & Mitchell Horwood
Georgina Waite

20 Year olds
Michael Naughtin
Amelia Taylor

Thanks to all staff and parents who helped out on the night and to all students for creating such an enthusiastic and fun atmosphere. Special thanks must also go to Allison King of the Parent’s Association who organized the sausage sizzle and also to Steven Frezzini from IT for all the background work he did to set up the computer system used on the night. Finally a big thank-you to all of the house captains, particularly the senior captains, who played a big role in organizing the relays, encouraging others to participate, generating house spirit, and swimming themselves.

The final house results were:

1st: Chisholm - 607
2nd: McKillop - 533
3rd: Champagnat - 494
4th: Delaney - 481

SATURDAY MORNING NETBALL

All registration forms and monies together with envelope are due on Friday 16th March to the Senior Library

Could team managers make sure they are proactive in having this ready?

Please make sure all cheques are made out to Galen College.

Any queries email Annette Fletcher
annette.fletcher@galen.vic.edu.au
or phone 57238321

Bibs and ball can be collected on receipt of registration.

VOLEYBALL

Season begins Wednesday, 7 March at 7.30pm

Social competition
Beginners welcome Individuals or teams

Registration Day
Wednesday 29 February 7-7.30pm at WISAC Foyer

Contact: Russell Smith
0418 573 647 or WISAC 5722 1723

Get Active, have fun and meet new people!
The best way to contact Galen staff members direct is by email.
All staff have email addresses which follow the formula: first name surname@galen.vic.edu.au

Members of the Board and Parents Association can be contacted via the office on 035721 6322 or admin@galen.vic.edu.au

School Board
- Monsignor John White: Parish Priest
- Tony Lane: President
- Bernard Neal: Principal
- Geoff Welch: Deputy Principal - Staff & Students
- Max Fletcher: CEO Sandhurst Representative
- Cameron Butler: Parent and Community seat holder
- John Byrne: Parent
- Suellen Loki: Parent
- Angie Semmens: Parent
- Mark Williams: Parent
- Darren Hovey: Staff Representative
- Mick Grogan: Staff Representative
- Elizabeth Holligan: Staff Representative
- John Pasztor: Staff Representative

Parents Association Executive
- Allison King: President
- Graham Spence: Treasurer
- Trish Impink: Secretary

Some basic tips that may be useful:
- Embrace their world – media & technology isn’t going away. It is only going to evolve.
- Encourage a balanced use – A rule of thumb could be: equal time spent between technology & other activities (sports, face to face with family & friends, chores etc)
- Monitor media use (as best you can) - encourage the use of technology in open areas. Ask questions about what they’re doing (keep the communication open). Make bedtime technology free. Remove devices from the bedroom. Put the devices on charge in another area of the house.
- Discuss which sites are acceptable to visit & what can be downloaded - As kids get older they will look to their friends to find what’s cool. Start the conversations & set guidelines with your kids about appropriate age & use of sites BEFORE they have been using them for months.

We encourage all within our school community to share any cyber knowledge, tips & suggestions with us.

You may have that piece of advice that could make a positive difference in another family’s life.

Email us on cybersafety@galen.vic.edu.au